(c) and (d) The Indian Council of Medical Research has guidelines similar to those of the World Health Organisation. These guidelines have been strictly adhered to while conducting clinical trials of this vaccine which has many meritorious characteristics and further development of vaccine would continue as per the prescribed protocols.

**Setting up of Modern Nework o Monitor Quakes in Latur**

3264. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a modern network, with latest imported equipment, is being set up to intensively monitor, even minor tremor in quake hit Latur area of Maharashtra as reported in Deccan Herald, dated the 5th January, 1994;

(b) what are the salient findings of the expert committee headed by Dr. B. K. Rao which inquired into the Latur earthquake; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Himalayan region has been studied extensively for seismicity, while the peninsular region, in which Maharashtra-Karnataka quake-prone belt falls was not fully studied or monitored?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ELECTRONICS AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) A Project has been formulated by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) to establish a network of seismic observatories equipped with modern seismographs with special emphasis on Deccan Plateau including Lature area of Maharashtra. A permanent modern seismological observatory has already been set up by the India Meteorological Department at Latur on Dec. 20, 1993.

(b) Major findings of the Committee indicate that the following actions are to be taken:

—Modernisation and expansion of seismological network in peninsular shield to monitor the earthquakes down to magniture 3.

—Undertaking of integrated surveys using remote sensing and other geophysical methods to map lineaments and other possible seismogenic features.

—Establishment of a centralised data centre.

—Strengthening of manpower by providing suitable training facilities.

—Establishment of an overseeing and coordinating mechanism for seismological activities in the country.

(c) The Himalayan region which is a part of the Alpine-Himalayan seismic belt, is seismically active and is closely monitored. Peninsular region is also monitored through national and local seismological networks including a modern array station. However, since the region is relatively less active, the network is not very dense.

**Patenting of Micro-Organisms**

3265. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Delhi based environmental organisation 'Kalpavriksh' has given shocking evidence about patenting of micro-organisms collected by US firms from India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what steps are being taken to demand repatriation of samples of bio-diversity taken from India in the past?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ELECTRONICS AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The Pioneer News Paper report of 14.2.1994 had quoted about the information provided by 'Kalpavriksh', and Indian Non-Governmental Environmental Group, that according to a Canadian Research and